A TRVE RELATION OF A GREAT DISCOVERY Intended against *HVLL*.

Sent in a Letter by Sir *John Hotham* to both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

With a true Copy of a Letter sent from Master *Beckwith*, a Recusant, to Lieutenant *Fooks* his Son in law, in service at *Hull* under Sir *John Hotham*.

Also three Proclamations lately sent from the Kings Most Excellent Majestie from *Yorke*.

Published by His Majesties speciall command.

London, Printed for *F. Coules* and *T. Bates*, *June* 4. 1642.

Sir *John Hotham's* Letter to a worthy Member of the House of Commons, concerning the late Discovery at *Hull*.

SIR,

SInce my last to you, It hath pleased the Almighty God, out of his great mercy to us here, and the Kingdome, to preserve us from an eminent danger, and ruine plotted against us here, which I thought fit to acquaint you with. I writ a word of it to the Committee at *Yorke*, but since have made a more ample discovery. I have within my Company a Lieutenant, his name is *Fookes*, sonne in law to one Master *Thomas Beckwith* a Recusant at *Beverly*, a good Souldier but poore. This man, his father in law, thought a fit Instrument to worke upon, and to that end, sent for him to come over to him. The Gentleman presently acquaints me with it, and asked my leave and advice therein; Protesting, that both in regard of the honour of a Souldier, and a Gentleman, nothing should passe but I should know. He had formerly beene obliged to me, and therefore I gave him leave to go with directions to yeeld to such propositions as should be made him, for otherwise being in their power, I knew not how they might have used him. At his returne he told me, that at his first comming, after an unusuall kinde welcome, that Master *Beckwith* broke the matter to him, That if hee would doe service, &c. hee should be rewarded in a great measure, insinuating to him how unable I was to preferre him in any way of subsistance: To be short, He made a plaine contract with him, That if he could betray a Port, he should have five hundred pound in hand

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
FROM THE LIBRARY
OF F. L. GAY
JUNE 1, 1916

hand, and two hundred and fifty pound *per annum* for his life, this he willingly accepted: Then *Beckwith* discourſed with him of the meanes how he could doe this; he told him, that upon Thurſday night, the ſix and twenty day of *May*, he had the guard at the North gate, and if Alarum were given at another gate, called *Heſſell* Gate, he could then let them in. This thus overnight concluded upon, next morning he was brought into the preſence of one *Triſt*, he was a Papiſt, and commanded Maſter *Percies* Troop of Horſe at the defeat at *Newbourne*, and one Captaine *Courtney*, and ſix others; ſome of which his father-in-law told him were Lords diſguiſed: Theſe promiſed him to make good his reward, but they doubted, unleſſe ſome Captaine might likewiſe be aiding, it might miſſe of performance; and therefore propounded to him to draw his Captain into the buſineſſe. *Lowanger* a Dutch-man (a man truely of that faith, courage, and ability, that were I to manage an enterpriſe of the greateſt moment that might be, I would not with a better ſecond) they propounded to him that hee ſhould have in reward 1000 pounds, 500 pounds for his life, and be made a Knight. You ſee, Sir, what ever the performance would have beene, they were not ſpare in promiſes. *Triſt* told him he had a man of his, whom under colour of carrying Armes as a Voluntiere, he might imploy as he ſaw cauſe. *Beckwith*, it appears, ſome time before, had an eye to have corrupted *Lowanger*, for he had inuited *Lowanger* to his houſe, and ſent him word hee would beſtow a Gelding upon him, which he preſently then acquainted me with, and told me he thought there was ſome ill meant in it, and ſo would not goe: He hath exceedingly laboured in the diſcovery of this, being in a great meaſure ſenſible of his honour herein. Upon Tueſday we cauſed the Lieutenant to write back to his father-in-law, that *Lowanger* liked well of the buſineſſe, but deſired ſome better aſſurance

of his reward then *Trist* and *Courtneyes* words, and sent a boy with the Letter; and that it might appeare to M. *Beckwith* be carried with more secrecy, the boy was chused to put the Letter in his Shooe: the return was this Letter inclosed: the originall (being well known to be his hand) I keep (to be sent when the Parliament shall command) least it might miscarry, as some other Letters of his, whereby his hand may be knowne. I have *Trists* man in hold, who confesseth he was sent hither by *Trist* (under colour to carry Armes) to give intelligence: and I finde he had endeavoured to send to *York* divers of my Souldiers. This morning I received a Letter from Master Maior of *Beverley*, the Copy of which I send you, of divers assembled at Master *Beckwiths* house: Wee had another, as I thinke, to surprise the Block-house, being the strong Fort of the Towne; but how that is, I have not yet made a full discovery.

I have sent to the Maior of *Beverley* to search Master *Beckwiths* house, being a Recusant, and to tender them the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, and to know their names. If there had beene open warre, I could soone have told what to have done in this businesse: And truely, if I should have let the Plot gone on, and given them what they deserved, I thinke, being they came that way to have taken the Towne, I might have justified it before God and man: But being loath to be the first letter of bloud, I resolved of another course; which was, To advertise His Majestie of the Plot discovered, least some should advise Him upon a designe, might prove dishonourable and dangerous to Him. This dispatch I sent away last night. I shall trouble you no farther, but rest,

April 1642. *Your affectionate faithfull friend,*

John Hotham.

The true Copy of Master Beckwiths Letter, a Recusant.

SOnne, the Iron is hot, I gueſſe at the ſenſe of your Letter, that all is right as was intended, for more ſecurity; in the morning, I expect ſtrong here. My Sonne went yeſternight to *Yorke*, comes with great ones this night Lor: I ſend what I have from you this night thither: if it may breed ſuſpition, let your friend beleeve well, and not come to mor tow; If I could ſend ſafe, I would, but the truſt holds on our part, as I ſhal be adviſed by your Fathers Maſter to morrow, I muſt worke; yet this Boy is a fine way to come and returne: Your Letters are ſo wafted in his ſhooe, as I gueſſe at the ſenſe; yet ſend it broken with my expoſition, for I dare not bogle with promiſes, no doubt is to be made of any thing promiſed; I write more confidently, becauſe I know your hand, I name none but your ſelfe, hee cannot come to morrow I feare, without ſuſpition; But I referre all to your ſelves, wiſhing to ſee him, I meane (in the morning) it will be better direction to him, to all here.

Ft. B.

By the King.

WHereas the High and Mighty Prince, *Iohn* the fourth, King of *Portugall, &c.* hath lately sent his Ambassadours to the Kings most Excellent Majestie; declaring his desire to renew the ancient Confederation and Amity between their Royall Predecessours, Crowns, and Subjects; His Majestie out of His Royall Care of the Peace and Tranquility of His Kingdomes, and the freedom of Trade and Commerce of His loving Subjects, by the advice of His Privie Councell, hath been pleased to yeeld thereunto, and doth make knowne to His loving People That the said Peace and Confederation is concluded and established betweene the said Kings, their Crownes, Kingdomes, Territories and Subjects: And the Kings most Excellent Majestie, for the direction of His Merchants in their Trade and Commerce, hath given Command, That the Articles of this Treaty of Peace shall be published, straitly charging and commanding all His loving Subjects of whatsoever degree and estate to observe the same.

Given at the Court at York the two and twentieth day of May, in the eighteenth yeer of His Majesties Reign, 1642.

God save the King.

A Proclamation by the King.

Rec 56 pag. 136 [illegible]

WHereas by the Statute made in the seventh yeer of King *Edward* the first, *The Prelates, Earles, Barons, and Commonalty of the Realm affirmed in Parliament, That to the King it belongeth, & his part it is by his Royall Seigniority, straitly to defend wearing of Armour, and all other Force against the Peace, at all times when it shall please Him, and to punish them*

which

which shall doe contrary, according to the Lawes and Vsages of the Realme; and hereunto all Subjects are bound to aid the King, as their Soveraigne Lord at all seasons, when need shall be. And whereas We understand, That expresly contrary to the said Statute, and other good Lawes of this Our Kingdome, under colour and pretence of an Ordinance of Parliament, without Our consent or any Cōmission or Warrant frō Us, The Trained Bands, and Militia of this kingdom have been lately, and are intended to be put in Armes, and drawne into Companies in a War-like manner, whereby the Peace and Quiet of Our Subjects is, or may be disturbed: We being desirous by all gracious and faire admonitions to prevent, That some malignant Persons in this Our Kingdome, doe not by degrees seduce Our good Subjects from their due obedience to Us, and the Lawes of this Our Kingdome, subtilly indeavouring by a generall Combustion or Confusion, to hide their mischievous designes and intentions against the Peace of this Our Kingdome, and under a specious pretence of putting Our Trained Bands into a Posture, draw, and engage Our good Subjects in a Warlike Opposition against Us, as Our Towne of *Hull* is already by the Treason of Sir *Iohn Hotham*, who at first pretended to put a Garrison into the same, onely for Our Security and Service.

We do therefore by this Our Proclamation expresly charge and command all Our Sheriffes, and all Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels, Serjeant Majors, Captains, Officers, and Souldiers belonging to the Trained Bands of this Our Kingdome, and likewise all high and petty Constables, and other Our Officers and Subjects whatsoever, upon their Allegiance, and as they tender the peace of this Our Kingdome, Not to Muster, Levy, Raise, March, or to summon, or warn upon any Warrant, Orders or Ordinance from one or both Our Houses of Parliament, (whereto We have not, or

shall

shall not give Our expresse Consent; any of Our Trained Bands or other Forces to Rise, Muster, March, or Exercise, without expresse Warrant under Our Hand, or Warrant from Our Sheriffe of the County, grounded upon a particular Writ to that purpose, under Our great Seale. And in case any of Our Trained Bands shall rise or gather together, contrary to this Our Command, We shall then call them in due time to a strict account, and proceed legally against them as violaters of the Laws, and disturbers of the Peace of the Kingdome.

Given at Our Court at Yorke the 27 day of May. 1642.

By the King.

OUr Will and Pleasure is, That the Ministers, Freeholders, Farmers, and substantiall Copy-holders of this Our County of *Yorke*, do assemble and meet together at *Hemsley Moor*, in Our County of *Yorke*, upon Fryday in Whitson weeke, according to former summons by nine of the clocke in the morning. For that We are informed there are divers Faires to bee kept in this Our County the day following, at which time many of them may have necessary occasions to be absent: and therefore out of Our tenderesse and care of Our good Subjects, We have thought fit to give this early notice, to the end the said Inhabitants may be put to as little prejudice as may be. And this Our pleasure We require to be forthwith Printed, and Copies thereof to be speedily published and dispersed by the Sheriffe of this County. For which this shall be sufficient warrant.

Given at Our Court at Yorke the 27 day of May. 1642.

GOD